

Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: April 19, 2006

Inspector: Don Ukers

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane,
345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill, and Norwalk Section)

Storm/

Rain Event: Approximately 0.28" of precipitation was recorded on 4/13 as reported by NOAA

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways Composite	<p>- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Rd by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- Clearing was occurring past Archers Lane. Wood chips have been blown off the cleared ROW in some areas. See the vegetative clearing section for more details. 3/2-4/19/06.</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2nd wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained below problem levels. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3rd wetland area 2/16/06.</p>	<p>- If necessary, additional measures for stability should be considered for access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, they will need to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-4/19/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- The damage should be repaired at the 3rd wetland. See erosion</p>	<p>-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
345kV H-Frame	Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/9-4/19/06.	control section for more details. 2/16- 4/19/06.	
	- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, the Bethel Res. water plant road, Lime Kiln Rd, Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. Wood chips were placed along a majority of the access roads. 3/29-4/19/06. -Stone dust is used on the access roads at Costa Lane and John Todd Way. 3/2-4/19/06.	-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 4/19/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Mats are in place in the wetland locations in all of the H-frame sections. Watch the crossings for muddy conditions and monitor erosion controls. 2/22-4/12/06.	- Continue to monitor for muddy conditions and repair controls when necessary. 4/12/06.	-N/A at this time
	- The mat bridge between poles #10-11 for access to bring in the poles remains in good shape. 4/19/06. -Ruts were noted in the access road due to heavy equipment. 4/6-4/19/06.	- The streambed and water main remain protected. 3/23-4/19/06. -This should be restored eventually. 4/19/06	-N/A -N/A at this time
Norwalk Section	-Some sediment tracking was noted on Lime Kiln. 4/19/06.	- Sweep the street as necessary. 4/19/06.	
	- Stone dust access roads are in place to the south of Perry Ave and north of Broad St. 4/6-4/19/06 - Stone was placed in the ROW to the south of Broad St. 4/19/06	- Controls are in place. 4/19/06. - None at this time. 4/12/06	- N/A at this time - N/A

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	-Work to the north of Perry Ave is also accessed off the recently paved cul-de-sac at April Ln. 4/19/06	- None at this time. 4/19/06	-N/A
Foundation construction Composite	-The only current work in this section is related to clearing beyond Archers Lane. 3/2-4/19/06.	-See erosion control and clearing sections. 4/19/06.	-N/A
345kV H-Frame	-Two poles were actively being installed in the Bethel Res section. All poles are in place in the Chestnut Ridge section. 4/19/06.	- None at this time. 4/19/06.	-N/A
	- No active work was noted in the Costa Lane section. Pole removal was noted at Limekiln. 4/19/06.	-None at this time. 4/19/06	-N/A
	-Temporary wooden rider or guard poles were being installed at roadways including Gallows Hill and Hoyts Hill. 4/19/06	-None at this time. 4/19/06	-N/A
Norwalk Section	-Foundation pouring continues to the north of Perry Ave., drilling was complete. Foundation pouring and drilling continues north of Broad St. 4/19/06.	-See dewatering and erosion controls section for more information. 4/6-4/19/06.	-N/A
	-The foundation drilling had continued in the ROW off Arrowhead Rd. (near Nwk Jctn). 4/19/06	-See dewatering and erosion controls section for more information. 4/19/06.	-N/A
Erosion and Sediment Controls	- Water levels appear to remain low at the 2 nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-4/19/06.	- None at this time. 4/19/06.	-N/A
Composite			

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Erosion controls continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3rd wetland area. Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/2-4/19/06. - Efforts need to continue to remove sediment accumulation near the 1st Archers Lane area wetland. 4/6-4/19/06. - Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-4/19/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-4/19/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Damage to the wetland should be repaired. 2/16-4/19/06. - In areas where sediment is substantial and feasibly removable, contractors will continue to take it out carefully by hand. 4/12-4/19/06. - Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors to should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&M plan. 2/22-4/19/06. - Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-4/19/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be transition station jurisdiction? - CL&P is looking into a solution here.
345kV H-Frame			
Chestnut Ridge Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-4/19/06. - The silt fence by structure #9 should remain maintained in this area. 4/6-4/19/06. - Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 4/6-4/19/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-4/19/06. - Continue to monitor and maintain silt fence here until the area is stabilized. 4/6-4/19/06. - Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 4/6-4/19/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A at the time - N/A
Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mats remain well in place over the stream between poles #10-11. Erosion controls remain well installed at the "corners" and along the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None at this time. Continue to monitor this area due to heavy use and maintain as needed. 4/6-4/19/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A.

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<p>Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way</p> <p>Norwalk Section</p>	second wet area. 3/29-4/19/06.		
	-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #29. 3/2-4/6-4/19/06.	-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-4/19/06.	-N/A at this time
	-Silt fence was left in place around the poles and foundations at a number of structure locations. 4/6-4/19/06.	-Continue to monitor the erosion controls and stabilize when feasible. 4/19/06.	N/A at this time
	-Poles #24 and 25 are on either sides of a large wetland system and dewatering corrals were set up adjacent to the silt fence. 4/12-4/19/06.	- Limited work space reduces options here. Monitor carefully due to its proximity to the wetland. 3/9-4/19/06 See dewatering for more info	-N/A at this time
	- Silt fence remains in good repair at foundations south of Perry Ave. 4/6-4/19/06.	-Continue to maintain the silt fence in this area and utilize it as a limit of work due to the proximity of the channel. 4/19/06.	-N/A.
	-Silt fence remains at the foundation drilling north of Perry Ave near Rt.7 4/19/06.	-None at this time. The fence prevented migration of dust from drilling 4/19/06.	-N/A
	- Silt fence remained in place at several locations north of Broad St., including near the river. 4/12-4/19/06	- Continue to maintain fence due to its proximity to resource areas. 4/19/06	-N/A
	- Several spots of concrete were removed as recommended. 4/19/06	- None at this time. 4/19/06	Concrete was removed.
	-The foundation drilling off Arrowhead Rd. required dewatering and slurry mix. Small washouts were noted at the slit fence. 4/19/06	- Repairs were made during the inspection and haybales were recommended for further stabilization. 4/19/06	-Repairs were made at the time of inspection

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	- Tree clearing south of Broad St near the substation resulted in logs down on top of the silt fence. 4/19/06	-Fence should be repaired prior to the start of work. 4/19/06	
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have worked well. Efforts were made near Archers Lane to start removing some accumulated sediment. 4/6-4/19/06.</p> <p>- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3rd crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-4/19/06.</p> <p>- The 1st wetland crossing has the most noticeable sediment deposits and this needs to be removed. 4/6-4/19/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-4/19/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or adjacent to streams in this section as well. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-4/19/06.</p> <p>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-4/19/06.</p> <p>- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed</p>	<p>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-4/19/06.</p> <p>- The damage to the 3rd wetland should be repaired. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- The crossing could also use some clean stone if necessary which may help reduce additional sediment deposits. 1/4-4/6-4/19/06.</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible. 3/2-4/19/06.</p> <p>- If damage is noted during the spring, the previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. 3/9/06-4/19/06.</p> <p>- Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2-4/19/06.</p> <p>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-4/12/06.</p> <p>- Continue to remove entire pile. Conditions</p>	<p>-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.</p> <p>-Efforts to retain lower growth have been noted in this section.</p>

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Norwalk Section	<p>from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-4/19/06.</p> <p>-Foundations being installed are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies but controls are in good shape. 4/6-4/19/06.</p>	<p>may be too muddy at this time. 2/16-4/19/06.</p> <p>-See erosion control section.</p>	-N/A
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-4/19/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting but is likely emerging from hibernation. 4/6-4/19/06.</p>	- Now that weather is warmer, it is time to recommence daily walkthroughs prior to work. 4/6-4/19/06.	-N/A at this time
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-4/19/06.</p> <p>-Piles of large branches and excess brush in the upland area of ROW between the 2nd and 3rd structure off Gallows Hill were removed. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3rd structure off Gallows Hill. This are is off property. 2/22-4/19/06.</p> <p>-This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-4/19/06.</p>	<p>-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-4/19/06.</p> <p>-Replace shrubs where necessary. 4/19/06</p> <p>-None at this time. Limbs and debris can remain in the wetland as well as within a "buffer" of ~30 feet on either side. 4/19/06.</p> <p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-4/19/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-4/19/06.</p>	<p>-Piles were removed, and woody debris was left near the wetland</p> <p>- CL&P is looking into this.</p>

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345kV H-Frame	-Clearing was occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 4/19/06.	- To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-4/19/06	- CL&P proposed the work under these specs.
	-Brush appeared to be removed from most wetlands along the ROW. 4/19/06.	-None at this time. 4/19/06	Most areas appear to be cleaned up.
	-In all sections make efforts to retain shrubs, especially in wetland areas. Efforts have been noted in some areas but could have improved in others. 3/15-4/19/06.	-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-4/19/06.	
Norwalk Section	- Some clearing was noted to the north and south of Broad St. Perry Ave areas had also been cleared. 4/19/06	- None at this time. 4/19/06.	-N/A
	-Two cleared corridors are present into Norwalk Junction. 4/19/06	- None at this time. 4/19/06	-N/A
Dewatering	-Dewatering corrals had been constructed at structures 24 & 25 located off Lime Kiln Road and John Todd Way. Corrals were placed directly upgradient of the wetland areas due to topography and limited workspace. No problems with dewatering were noted during the inspection. 4/19/06.	-Monitor the dewatering activities at structures #24 and 25 in order to avoid impacting the adjacent wetland areas. If corrals are not functioning properly an alternative method, such as filter bags, will need to be used immediately in these areas.	-N/A at this time
	- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted at the remaining structures 4/19/06.	- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment.	-N/A at this time

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	-Dewatering at the structure off Arrowhead Rd. led to some washouts of the silt fence. 4/19/06.	3/9-4/6/06. -Repairs were made immediately. 4/19/06	-Repairs were made.
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 4/19/06.	-None at this time. 4/19/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-4/19/06.	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.	-N/A
Additional Observations			

Next likely scheduled inspection: Wednesday April 26, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature: Diana Walden for Don Ukers



(Composite Section-Archers Lane): Photo on the left shows a view of tree clearing activities returning to the ROW past Archers Lane. Photo on the right shows a view of the ROW in this area, looking towards Rt.53. 4/19/06



Photo on the left shows a view of the wetland crossing near Gallows Hill with controls still well in place. (345kV H-frame) Photo on the right shows a view of the ROW looking toward John Todd Way from the left pole in the Bethel Reservoir section. 4/19/06.



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows an area of dewatering in the Bethel Res. section. The haybales and controls worked well. Photo on the right shows a view along the ROW where a structure is being installed. 4/19/06.



Photo on the left shows the view towards Hoyts Hill and the installation of structure #1. Photo on the right shows a view along the Chestnut Ridge section of the ROW. 4/19/06.



Photo on the left shows a view of the ROW looking back towards Chestnut Ridge Rd. Photo on the right shows a view of the wetlands adjacent to structures #24 and 25. Erosion controls and dewatering corrals were in good shape. 4/19/06.



(345kV H-Frame Costa Lane) View of the ROW looking towards Gallows Hill. A temporary wooden rider or guard pole was being installed at the roadway. 4/19/06.



(345kV Norwalk Section Broad St) Photo on the left shows some additional clearing along Broad St. Silt fence had come down further due to the clearing. Photo on the right shows clearing occurring to the north of Broad St. 4/19/06



North of Perry Ave: Photo on the left shows where silt fence was installed to prevent migration of stone dust and sediment from the foundation drilling. Arrowhead Rd.: Photo on the right shows where dewatering discharge from the foundation has accumulated along the silt fence. 4/19/06